

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

All claims that were originally filed, claims 1 through 9, in this Amendment After Final and Response. Independent claims 1 and 5 are currently amended, and claims 2-4 and 6-9 are presented as originally filed. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment After Final, in preparation for potential continuing prosecution or appeal.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In section 2 of the Examiner's office action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-9 (including independent claims 1, 5 and 8) under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated US Patent 6,460,120 issued to Bass. The applicant respectfully traverses.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner states that "Bass teaches about a high performance network address processor comprising" the following:

"a longest prefix match lookup engine for receiving a network address request having a designated network address" and

"an associated data engine 'Data Store Coprocessor' coupled to the longest prefix match lookup engine "Tree Search Engine Coprocessor" for receiving an output address "forwarding information" from the longest prefix match lookup engine and providing a network address processor "protocol processor" data output corresponding to the designated network destination address."

Accordingly, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to more specifically identify the data exchanged between the claimed "prefix match lookup engine" and "associated data engine." Claim 1 now recites a "longest prefix match lookup engine for that is capable of receiving a key and an output address pointer from the longest prefix match lookup engine."

The integrated circuit of claim 5 has been amended in a similar manner. Support for this language, specifically the "key" and "address pointer," can be found throughout the

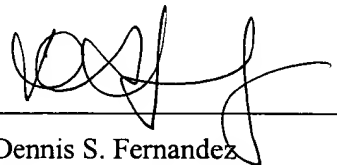
specification, for example, page 4, lines 1-11. The Applicants submit that the addition of these elements to claims 1 and 5 renders them patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw these rejections with respect to claims 1-9.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner office action in the current case was mailed on 3/31/2004, the period of response extending to 2 months, for required issuance of and advisory action to this Response. That two month date is 5/31/2004 which is the federal holiday of Memorial Day, so the actual period of response extends to today, 6/1/2004. The number of independent and total claims in the current amendment is unchanged, so there is no claim fee due. Should there be any fee due beyond the amount enclosed, the Examiner is authorized to charge it to the user account customer number listed below.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment After Final, in preparation for potential continuing prosecution or appeal. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted by Applicants that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis S. Fernandez

Reg. No. 34,160

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Address: **FERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES LLP**
Patent Attorneys
1047 El Camino Real
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Customer No: **22877**

Phone: (650) 325-4999
Fax: (650) 325-1203
Email: iploft@iploft.com